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14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein an increased risk of familial sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy is indicated by the detection of a genotype selected from the group consisting of: IL-1A(-889) 2,2 and IL-1B(-511) 2,2; IL-1A(-889) 1,2 and IL-1B(-511) 2,2; and IL-1A(-889) 2,2 and IL-1B(-511) 1,2.

15. (New) A method of predicting a decreased risk of familial sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy comprising detecting the presence of allele 2 of IL-1RN(VNTR).

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein a decreased risk familial sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy is indicated by the detection of an IL-1RN(VNTR) 2,2 genotype.

17. (New) A method of determining an increased risk of familial sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy comprising detecting the presence of allele 2 of IL-1A(-889), allele 2 of IL-1B(-511), allele 2 of IL-1RN(VNTR) and allele 1 of IL-1RN(VNTR) wherein the presence of an allele 2 of IL-1A(-889), an allele 2 of IL-1B(-511) and allele 1 of IL-1RN(VNTR) and the absence of an allele 2 of IL-1RN(VNTR), indicates an increased risk of familial sight-threatening diabetic retinopathy.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully note that the FINAL OFFICE ACTION dated July 27, 2001 states that Applicants arguments in their previous response have served to overcome rejections not reiterated therein. The FINAL OFFICE ACTION dated July 27, 2001 states that claims 1-12 are pending but stand rejected. Applicants have filed a request for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) in the instant application following the filing of a Notice of Appeal on January 28, 2002. The time for filing this CPA has been extended to August 28, 2002 by the accompanying petition for a five month extension of time and payment of fee.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the above preliminary amendment containing new claims 14-17 prior to substantive action in the application. Support for the proposed new